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## EVENTS OF THE DAY

IN CHARGE OF

GARNET ISABEL PELTON, R.N.

**THE WAR.** A deadlock exists on all the battle-fronts, due largely on the Western, Russian, and Italian, to weather conditions. At Saloniki, on the Macedonian front, the Allies are delayed from making an advance on account of the present limited dockage facilities for landing troops and supplies necessary to support an army moving constantly farther from its base.

The Allies have continued tightening the screws on Greece by demanding the removal of enemy diplomats, the surrender of certain guns and ammunition, and by a blockade of Greek coasts.

Roumania is apparently crushed, the Central Powers having already taken one-half of the country, including the capital, Bucharest.

Arabia, a country one-third the size of Europe, has declared its independence of Turkey, to which it has been for centuries an unwilling subject.

The Belgian minister of justice has protested to our government against the deportation of 40,000 Belgian men to Germany for military work, saying 300,000 are to be deported, thus releasing an equal number of Germans for the German army. Cardinal Mercier, primate of Belgium, also protests to the civilized world, describing the brutality of these deportations. But General von Bissing, German governor of Belgium, says of this deportation that "at bottom it is a blessing" because "nothing so demoralizes a man as long idleness" and that these men are taken from the unemployed. Our government, while not formally protesting, has suggested to Germany the bad effect that these deportations will have on neutral opinion.

**EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH.** The death of the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary closes the longest actual reign of European history. A political review of those sixty-eight years would constitute a history of modern times. From the beginning of his reign, the terrible curse of a mother whose son, condemned to death, he felt he could not pardon, seems to have been strangely fulfilled in the tragedies of his personal life. Besides attempts on his own life, his wife was killed by an anarchist; his only son was found dead by violence; his next heir, a nephew, fled the country as captain of a merchant ship and has never been heard from; the succeeding heir, Arch-

duke Francis Ferdinand, was assassinated by a Serb in Bosnia in 1914, which deed precipitated the present war. The Emperor's brother, Maximilian, was executed in Mexico as the result of his ill-advised attempt to become that country's ruler. The next heir, a grand-nephew, has ascended the throne as Charles I, the first of his line to be educated in the public schools.

**THE NEW BRITISH PREMIER.** David Lloyd-George, chosen premier of Great Britain on Mr. Asquith's recent resignation, is the "man of the hour." A Welshman of modest origin, his rise has been meteoric. A few years ago he startled England with his reforms as Chancellor of the Exchequer. The most notable of them were a radical increase in land taxation, the curbing of the veto of the House of Lords, old-age pensions, and insurance against illness and unemployment. At the outbreak of the war his handling of the war finances was unprecedented and successful. Later, when England was suffering from a shortage of ammunition, as newly-created Minister of Munitions he rapidly overcame the difficulty. On Kitchener's death he was appointed Secretary for War. Today he is chosen the political monarch of the Empire.

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.** The last session of the Sixty-fourth Congress opened December 4 and will close March 4. Following his custom, President Wilson read his message to the assembled Houses. Contrary to expectation, he did not touch on the high cost of living, but merely urged action on certain unfinished business of the previous session. Under the first heading the President asked for the enlargement and reorganization of the Interstate Commerce Commission, that it might deal more thoroughly and promptly with its great and various duties. He no longer advocated the action of Congress regarding an increase of freight rates to reimburse the railways for the cost of the Adamson Eight Hour Law. He earnestly advised Congress to enlarge the powers of the existing arbitration tribunal that it might enforce investigations in case of railroad wage disputes, and prohibit strikes or lockouts pending inquiry. He also asked Congress to give the Administration power to take control of railways with their employees in case of military necessity. The second heading dealt with greater freedom of business combination to promote foreign trade; the amending of the present laws of Porto Rico; and a bill proposing a more systematic regulation of election expenses, (more commonly called the "Corrupt Practices Act"), which will not permit the election of the highest representatives of the Government to be controlled by money. The third heading took up the bill for industrial and vocational training. Many other matters will, of course, come up for legislation.